

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
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R 201211Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9956

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1045

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS CINCPAC AND SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MIL TH  
SUBJ: US-RTG DISCUSSIONS ON FORCE LEVELS

REF: A. STATE 12825, B. BANGKOK 443

1. EMBASSY HAS TOLD RTG IN CLEAREST POSSIBLE TERMS AND THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS OF US RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN FORCE LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AAT THIS JUNCTURE, GIVEN EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. CHARUNPHAN NEVERTHELESS SEEMS EQUALLY DETERMINED INITIATE DISCUSSIONS BEFORE THAI ELECTIONS JANUARY 26. ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER NATION, WHICH OFTEN USED AS MOUTHPIECE BY MFA, UNDER BOLD HEADLINE "NEW WITHDRAWAL DISCUSSION SET FOR THIS WEEK" RAN STORY QUOTING CHARUNPHAN AS SAYING HE EXPECTED THAI AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO BEGIN NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM FOR 1975 BEFORE CURRENT GOVERNMENT LEAVES OFFICE. PAPER FURTHER QUOTED CHARUNPHAN AS SAYING HE HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR KINTNER TO THIS EFFECT, HE FELT THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD HAVE STARTED EARLIER, AND THAT A TARGET FOR PULLOUT OF TROOPS FOR THIS YEAR WOULD RESULT FROM NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE EXPECT CHARUNPHAN TO DO ONE OR BOTH OF TWO THINS:  
A) PRESS AMBASSADOR HARD, DURING MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 ON ECONOMIC AID AGREEMENT, FOR IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF BILATERAL WORKING GROUP TO OPEN

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FORCE LEVEL DISCUSSIONS; AND/OR B) SEEK TO CHARACTERIZE

WEDNESDAY'S MEETING ITSELF AS INITIAL FORCE LEVEL  
NEGOTIATION SESSION.

3. IN EFFORT TO FORSTALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS OR MINIMIZE  
DAMAGE, EMBASSY IS TAKING FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. PRIOR TO CHARUNPHAN MEETING, WE ARE SEEKING  
APPOINTMENT WITH GENERAL KRIT. AT KRIT MEETING, WE WILL:  
REVIEW CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA,  
POINTING OUT RELATIVE DETERRENT ROLE PLAYED BY US AIR  
FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND AGAINST ALL-OUT NVN OFFENSIVE;  
CALL ATTENTION TO CHARUNPHAN PIECE IN NATION (PARA 1 WRONG);  
AND EXPRESS ALARM OVER POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM SENDING WRONG  
SIGNALS TO HANOI. WE HOPE THIS WILL PRODUCE APPROACH BY  
KRIT TO CHARUNPHAN SUPPORTING OUR IDEAS.

B. WHEN AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH CHARUNPHAN ON  
WEDNESDAY, HE WILL BRIEF CHARUNPHAN ON CURRENT SVN AND CAMBODIAN  
SITUATIONS USING SAME MATERIAL AS WITH KRIT. HE WILL ALSO  
CALL ATTENTION TO HANOI'S PRESUMED UNCERTAINTY AS TO  
POSSIBLE REINTRODUCTION OF US FORCES. HE WILL REITERATE  
OUR VIEW THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY DISCUSSION  
OF US FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND COULD HAVE DANXGING EFFECT.

4. IF DESPITE FOREGOING CHARUNPHAN REMAINS ADAMANT ON  
INITIATION OF NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS, WE WILL SEEK TO  
PIN HIM DOWN AND LIMIT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING GROUP  
MEETING AS AUTHORIZED PARA 2 REF A. WE WILL ALSO HAND HIM  
PRESS STATEMENT AS INSTRUCTED PARA 3 REF A. WE WILL  
MOREOVER, IF HE INDICATES THAT HE PROPOSES TO BRIEF PRESS  
ON HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KINTNER AND MAKE REFERENCE  
TO FORCE LEVELS, PROVIDE HIM WITH ADDITIONAL PRESS STATEMENT  
FOR HIS USE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGIN PROPOSED STATEMENT

DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA AND AMBASSADOR  
WILLIAM R. KINTNER ON JANUARY 22, 1975, THE GENERAL  
SECURITY SITUATION IN THE INDOCHINA AREA WAS EXAMINED.  
THE MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT A THAI-US  
WORKING GROUP WOULD MEET TO REVIEW THE REDUCTION IN US  
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FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN MARCH 1974. IN VIEW OF THE  
INTENSIFICATION OF THE CONFLICT IN BOTH CAMBODIA AND  
SOUTH VIETNAM, IT IS EXPECTED THAT NO FURTHER REDUCTIONS  
IN US AIR FORCES STATIONED ON ROYAL THAI AIR BASES WILL  
BE MADE AT THE PRESENT TIME. END PROPOSED STATEMENT.  
KINTNER

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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NNN

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